

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims (~~strikethrough~~ or [[double-brackets]] indicating deletion and underline indicating insertion), as follows:

1. (original) An orthodontic bracket for use with a wire to reposition a tooth, comprising:
a body defining a coextensive opening for receiving the wire, wherein the body does not have a base with a surface area for bonding directly to the tooth and fixing the position of the opening, wherein the bracket is positionable at an angle relative to the tooth surface without any part of the body creating a lever arm against the tooth surface.
2. (original) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 1, wherein the body comprises a gingival sidewall, an occlusal sidewall, and a lingual sidewall therebetween that cooperatively define the opening so that the opening is open on a tooth side.
3. (original) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 2, wherein the body has a low profile width that is equal to a depth of the opening plus a thickness of the lingual sidewall.
4. (original) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 2, wherein the bracket is positionable offset from the tooth or adjacent to the tooth, wherein when the bracket is offset from the tooth then no part of the bracket contacts the tooth, and when the bracket is adjacent to the tooth then the gingival sidewall, the occlusal sidewall, or both contact the tooth.
5. (original) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 2, wherein the opening is rectangular and the bracket is positionable adjacent to or offset from a vertical or a non-vertical surface of the tooth with the rectangular opening still level.

6. (currently amended) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 5, wherein the gingival occlusal sidewall has a length that is greater than a length of the ~~occlusal~~ gingival sidewall so that the open tooth side is angled from vertical.
7. (original) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 1, wherein the body comprises one or more retention wings extending therefrom.
8. (original) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 7, wherein the body has a low profile width that is equal to a depth of the opening plus a thickness of the lingual sidewall plus a horizontal extension of the wings.
9. (original) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 7, wherein the opening is rectangular and the wings are angled relative to the rectangular opening so that the bracket is positionable adjacent to or offset from a vertical or a non-vertical surface of the tooth with the rectangular opening still level.
10. (original) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 9, wherein the wings are curved away from the tooth as they extend away from the opening so that if the wings were extended across the opening they would form a continuous convex surface.
11. (original) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 10, wherein one of the wings extends from a gingival sidewall of the body and is curved back as the wing extends away from the opening, and another of the wings extends from an occlusal sidewall of the body and is curved back as the wing extends away from the opening.

12. (original) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 10, wherein one of the wings extends from a gingival sidewall of the body and is curved back as the wing extends away from the opening, and another of the wings extends from an occusal sidewall of the body and is curved forward as the wing extends away from the opening.

13. (original) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 1, wherein the body defines notches arranged for enhanced bonding strength.

14. (original) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the body and the opening are curved laterally.

15. (currently amended) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 1, wherein the body further defines two or more of the openings a second coextensive opening.

16. (currently amended) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 1, wherein the opening is tubular, with open

17. (currently amended) An orthodontic attachment comprising a mass of adhesive ~~bonded~~ for bonding to the tooth and the bracket of Claim 1 embedded in the adhesive mass.

18. (original) The orthodontic attachment of Claim 17, wherein the adhesive mass encapsulates the bracket except for the opening.

19. (currently amended) The orthodontic attachment of Claim 17, wherein the adhesive mass and the bracket are ~~attached~~ attachable to a lingual surface of the tooth.

20. (currently amended) An orthodontic appliance ~~attached~~for attaching to a plurality of teeth, the appliance comprising a plurality of the attachments of Claim 17, wherein at least one of the attachments is ~~attached~~attachable to a lingual surface of a front one of the teeth.

21. (currently amended) The orthodontic appliance of Claim 20, wherein at least one other of the attachments is ~~attached~~attachable to a facial surface of a back one of the teeth.

22. (original) An orthodontic kit comprising at least one of the brackets of Claim 1 and at least one clip configured to hold the bracket during attachment.

23. (currently amended) The orthodontic kit of Claim 22, wherein the clip comprises a finger that is receivable in the bracket opening and a handle portion for grasping, the clip finger blocks the opening to prevent intrusion of an adhesive mass.

24-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) An orthodontic attachment for use with a wire to reposition a tooth, comprising:

a mass of adhesive ~~bonded~~for bonding to the tooth; and
an orthodontic bracket comprising a body at least partially defining an opening for receiving the wire, wherein the bracket is embedded in the adhesive mass.

31. (original) The orthodontic attachment of Claim 30, wherein the adhesive mass encapsulates the bracket except for the opening.

32. (original) The orthodontic attachment of Claim 30, wherein the opening is a closed tube with at least one sidewall defined by the adhesive mass.

33. (currently amended) The orthodontic attachment of Claim 30, wherein the adhesive mass and the bracket are ~~attached~~ attachable to a lingual surface of the tooth.

34. (currently amended) An orthodontic appliance ~~attached~~ for attaching to a plurality of teeth, the appliance comprising a plurality of the attachments of Claim 30, wherein at least one of the attachments is ~~attached~~ attachable to a lingual surface of a front one of the teeth.

35. (currently amended) The orthodontic appliance of Claim 34, wherein at least one other of the attachments is ~~attached~~ attachable to a facial surface of a back one of the teeth

36-52. (canceled)

53. (new) An orthodontic bracket for use with a mass of adhesive and a wire to reposition a tooth having an overall anatomy, the bracket comprising:

a body defining a coextensive opening for receiving the wire, wherein the bracket is adapted to be encapsulated or embedded into the adhesive mass in a position at least partially offset from the tooth with the opening exposed so that the wire can be inserted therethrough, wherein the bracket does not have a base plate with a surface area for bonding directly to the tooth and fixing the position of the opening, wherein the bracket does not have an offset arm extending from the body for offsetting the opening from the tooth, and wherein the bracket is positionable in free space with six degrees of freedom in a pre-selected spatial orientation based on the tooth anatomy, without any part of the bracket creating a lever arm against the tooth, and with no part of the bracket between an open side of the opening and the tooth.

54. (new) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 53, wherein the body comprises one or more retention wings extending therefrom, the retention wings adapted to provide a surface area for bonding to the adhesive mass when the bracket is positioned offset from or adjacent to the tooth, without creating a lever arm against the tooth.

55. (new) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 53, wherein the body comprises a gingival sidewall, an occlusal sidewall, and a lingual sidewall therebetween that cooperatively define the opening in the form of a slot with an open tooth side, and wherein when the bracket is embedded or encapsulated in the adhesive mass then the adhesive mass closes off the open side of the opening.

56. (new) An orthodontic bracket for use with a mass of adhesive and a wire to reposition a tooth, consisting of:

a body consisting of a gingival sidewall, an occlusal sidewall, and a lingual sidewall therebetween that cooperatively define a coextensive opening with an open side and two open ends for receiving the wire, wherein the bracket is adapted to be encapsulated or embedded into the adhesive mass in a position offset from the tooth with the adhesive mass closing off the open side of the opening but leaving exposed the open ends so that the wire can be inserted therethrough, wherein the bracket is positionable at an angle relative to a surface of the tooth in free space without any part of the bracket contacting and creating a lever arm against the tooth, and wherein no part of the bracket is between the open side of the opening and the tooth.

57. (new) The orthodontic bracket of Claim 56, wherein the body further consists of one or more retention wings extending therefrom, the retention wings adapted to provide a surface area for bonding to the adhesive mass when the bracket is positioned offset from or adjacent to the tooth, without creating a lever arm against the tooth.